

Town of Hill
Budget Committee
2026 Budget
Meeting Minutes 1/7/2026

Members Present: Bruce Blazon (Chair), Harold Knott, MaryAnne Moses (Ex-Officio), Bill Machado, Jr. and Karen Sylvestre, Lexi White (Ex-Officio), Frank Simeone, Marshall Bennett (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Tom Angeley, Tom Scribner

Public: Chief Casey Brennan, Tony Cartier and Tom McCuster

Overview

Committee reviewed department budgets: Proposed total \$486,455 vs prior \$467,074 (increase discussed).

Detailed Highway/Roads budget: Line-by-line presentation (diesel, salt, equipment rental, wages, overtime).

Calendar set: Tentative Public Hearing Date February 11, 2026.

School Board final presentation next week.

Select Board budget presentation scheduled for next week.

Feb./March vote timeline discussed.

First order of business

BB: Highway Department to present tonight.

Water Department not expected to present budget.

Committee meetings scheduled for 7th, 14th (School), and 21st (Select/Government).

Goal is to finalize overall budget on 21st.

Government should provide draft warrant articles and existing capital reserve fund balances for committee.

Review School Board to present next week for ~15 minutes; presentation to finalize a few numbers.

Previous meeting minutes were lengthy and will be posted on the town website once approved.

Tony Cartier; Road Agent

Presented Highway budget line-by-line. Proposed total budget \$486,455, previous \$467,074. Health Insurance \$122,000, up from \$81,000. Wages: Road Agent: \$66,000 (new); highway regular \$101,000, down from \$181,000 due to separation; Highway Overtime \$21,035, up from \$15,260. Significant line changes: Equipment Rental \$45,000 (down \$5,000); Diesel \$33,000 (up \$3,000); Electricity \$2,600 (up \$200); Equipment Expenses \$38,000 (unchanged). General Maintenance corrected to \$4,500; Mileage Reimbursement added \$500; New Clothing \$1,500 (up from \$750); \$4,050. Misallocated line must be added, affecting the delta.

Committee Members Discussion/Questions:

Pavement, Capital Reserve & Grants: Cass Mill Road is full of potholes and causing vehicle damage. Residents were previously told 2026 would be its paving year. Maintenance quality drops at the Hill/Alexandria town line; Hill section has received increased sanding. Murray Hill was prioritized and recently repaved up to the Borough Road after a new bridge; prioritization is driven by higher traffic visibility. Town will prepare grant proposals this spring with an engineer and grant writer to fund road projects. Town has about 12 miles of paved roads. Bunker Hill was recently completed and it's recommended a 5–10-year road rotation should be proposed to maintain the paved roads.

Thomas McCuster; Parks and Rec

Presented budget first-time using prior-year numbers with limited prior-setup details. Park maintenance responsibility was removed, reducing budget; \$1,000 was proposed for graffiti/paint supplies. Electricity: 2025 budget \$2,100; over by \$817.30; proposed 2026 \$2,850. Equipment rental (toilets): 2025 budget \$1,000; over by \$1,000; proposed 2026 \$1,500. Tapley Thompson Center: 2025 budget \$13,625; over by \$812; proposed 2026 \$14,425; proposed total \$19,775 for 2026.

Committee Members Discussion/Questions:

All members questioned the 7,400 and agreed the need further explanation at the Government session – All agreed.

All members joined in with ideas of different events for upcoming year. Fireworks, Old Home Day, Easter Egg Hunt was discussed.

BB: Any general discussion questions from the committee?

BM Stated that he did not attend the last meeting and wanted to know about the outcome of the committee being that an advisory board or budget committee.

MM responded that we are a budget committee that the town votes on.

BM The budget that we propose it what we are voting on – Good. Thank you.

FS Motioned to adjourn

BB Seconded

All in favor – Yes

Chair Votes Affirmative

BB Ended meeting at 7:45pm

Respectfully Submitted

MaryAnne Moses; Secretary

Minutes approved by attending Budget Committee members 1/21/2026